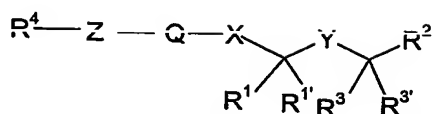


# Claims

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

Wherein:

Q represents an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

X represents O, S, NR<sup>5</sup> or CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>;

Y represents CHOH, CHSH, NOR<sup>8</sup>, CNR<sup>8</sup> or CNOR<sup>8</sup>;

Z represents a bond, CR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, O, S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>10</sup>, OCR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, CR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>O or Z, R<sup>4</sup> and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>1'</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>3'</sup> each independently represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylaryl;

R<sup>2</sup> represents CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup>, CONR<sup>5</sup>OR<sup>9</sup> or NR<sup>5</sup>COR<sup>9</sup>;

R<sup>4</sup> represents optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl;

R<sup>5</sup> represents H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> each independently represents H, C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or halo;

R<sup>8</sup> represents H or C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl;

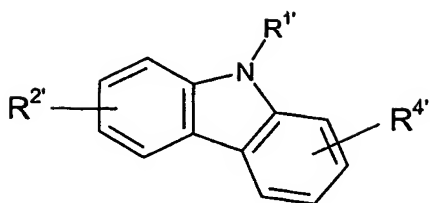
R<sup>9</sup> represents H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> each independently represents H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylaryl;

and physiologically functional derivatives thereof, with the exception of 6H-dibenzo[b,d]pyran-3-pentanoic acid (1-dihydroxy-6,6,9-trimethyl), with the provisos that:

when Q represents phenyl; X is O, S or CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> where R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> each independently represents H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl; Z represents a bond, C<sub>2-4</sub>alkylene, S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, OCH<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>O; and Y represents CHOH, R<sup>4</sup> does not represent phenyl substituted in the ortho position by a substituent X'W' wherein X' is -NR<sup>1</sup>C(O)NR<sup>2</sup>-, -NR<sup>1</sup>C(O)-, -NR<sup>1</sup>C(O)O-, -C(O)NR<sup>2</sup>-, or -OC(O)NR<sup>2</sup>- (wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl) and W' is hydrogen or a C<sub>1-12</sub>hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more groups independently selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, hydroxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl and C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkoxy; and

when R<sup>4</sup>, Z and Q together form a group



wherein R¹ is H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxyC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkanoyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkanoylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, aryl, arylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxyC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, arylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkanoyl, arylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, heteroarylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, heteroarylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkanoyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, heterocyclylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxyC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, heterocyclylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, carbocyclylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxyC<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, carbocyclylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkanoyl, carbocyclylcarbonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylsulphonyl, N,N-di-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylaminosulphonyl or N-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylaminosulphonyl wherein R¹ may be optionally substituted by up to three substituents independently selected from C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted by up to three fluoro substituents, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkanoyl, carboxy, hydroxy, halo, cyano, amino, N-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylamino, N,N-di-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylamino, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkanoylamino, mercapto, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylsulphonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylsulphinyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylsulphanyl, nitro, heteroarylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkanoylamino, or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy carbonyl;

R² is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl (optionally substituted by hydroxy), C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, cyano, nitro, halo, amino, N-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylamino, or N,N-di-alkylamino; and

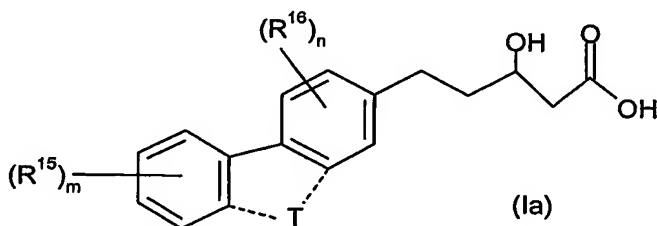
R⁴ is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, halo or nitro;

X is NH or CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup>;

Y is CHOH;

R² is not CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>8</sup> wherein R<sup>8</sup> is C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 of formula (Ia):



wherein:

T is absent or represents O, S, NR<sup>17</sup> or CR<sup>17</sup> R<sup>18</sup>;

--- represents optional bonds;

$R^{15}$  and  $R^{16}$  each independently represents halo, cyano, nitro,  $OR^{17}$ ,  $SR^{17}$ ,  $COR^{17}$ ,  $NR^{18}COR^{17}$ ,  $CONR^{17}R^{18}$ , optionally substituted phenoxy or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl optionally substituted by  $OR^{17}$ ;

$R^{17}$  represents H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or  $C_{1-4}$  alkylaryl;

5  $R^{18}$  represents H or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;

m and n each independently represents 0 or an integer 1, 2 or 3;

with the proviso that when T is absent,  $R^{15}$  does not represent  $NR^{18}COR^{17}$  or  $CONR^{17}R^{18}$  in the ortho position; and physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

10 3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 for use in medicine.

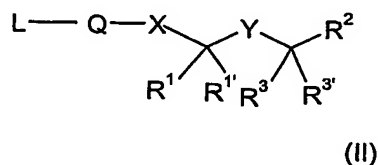
4. A method for the treatment of a human or animal subject suffering from or susceptible to an autoimmune disorder or an inflammatory condition which method comprises administering to said human or animal subject an effective amount of a  
15 compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2.

5. The use of a compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of inflammatory conditions or autoimmune disorders.

20 6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claims 1 or claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor, and optionally one or more other therapeutic agents.

25 7. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which process comprises:

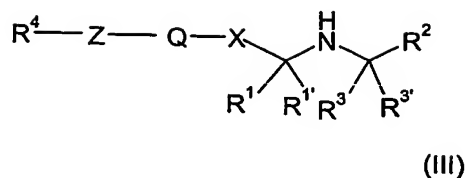
(A) reacting a compound of formula (II):



30 wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^{1'}$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^{3'}$ , Q, X and Y are as previously defined for formula (I) and L represents a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group  $R^4Z$ ; or

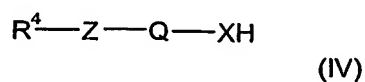
(B) oxidation of a compound of formula (III):

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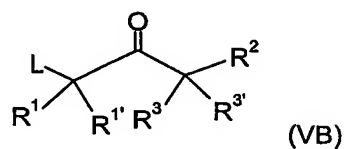
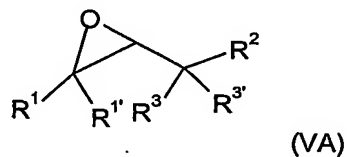
wherein R<sup>4</sup>, Z, Q, X, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>1'</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>3'</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as previously defined for formula (I); or

(C) reaction of a compound of formula (IV):



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wherein R<sup>4</sup>, Z and Q are as previously defined for formula (I) and X represents O or S with a compound of formula (VA) or (VB):



10 group, in the presence of a base; or

(D) interconversion of one compound of formula (I) to another compound of formula (I); or

(E) deprotection of a protected derivative of a compound of formula (I).

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